GOSSIP. LUPITA NYONG'O THE BEAUTIFUL PAGE 18

metro

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Thursday, April 24, 2014 **www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork**

Stepping into character

Fashion plate. The colorful costumes of the Cosplay Fashion Show will be on display this weekend at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden as part of the annual Cherry Blossom Festival.

PAGES 02, 19

Echo Chronum will take part in the Cosplay Fashion Show on Sunday at the Cherry Blossom Festival at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. / BESS ADLER, METRO

Special. Summer camps for ages 5-25

PAGES 11-16

Style. Vamp like a 'Vampire Diaries' fox

PAGE 22

Dating. Love me Tinder, love me true

PAGE 27

Dining. Make your mouth an on-ramp for ramps

PAGE 30

1 NEWS

Quoted

"Today's announcement of arrests in this case demonstrates important progress in pursuing justice for the victim and a clear message that violence will never be tolerated in our city."

Public Advocate Letitia James on the arrests of five men who had reportedly beaten a fashion student in Williamsburg.

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'Minnie Driver hits back at haters by going nude on Twitter'

2 'Why the "Game of Thrones" cast laughed through the rape scenes'

3 'VIDEO: Police seek suspect in molotov cocktail attack in Brooklyn corner

Behind the costumes at Cosplay Fashion Show

Aleena Gonzalez as character Aleena Momo, left, Charles Battersby, dressed as Elizabeth from the video game "BioShock," Shabbir Hussain as Kyon and Alyssa Zahradnik as Al Gardner will take part in the Cosplay Fashion show. / BESS ADLER, METRO

Dress up. The outfits are part of the Cherry Blossom Festival at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Echo Chronum, 17, is a quiet Brooklyn high school student who often buries herself in her homework.

But there is another side to the shy teen that her classmates might be surprised to learn about.

This Sunday, Chronum will walk down a runway in front of media cameras and a crowd of thousands at the 5th annual Cosplay Fashion Show at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Cosplay is short for "costume play" or dressing up as a fictional character, especially those from Japanese manga or anime.

"Before cosplay, I didn't have a life besides schoolwork and just going to bed," said Chronum, who provided a pseudonym for privacy reasons.

Chronum will be cosplaying as Princess Sakura from the manga series "Tsubasa Reservoir Chronicles" in a handcrafted outfit that took more than 100 hours to create.

The show is part of the 33rd annual Sakura Matsuri, or Cherry Blossom Festival.

"We have an application process that is quite selective," said Anita Jacobs, director of public programs at BBG. "We are only looking at outfits that are handsewn and hand-designed."

For 27-year-old Anna Nakhodkina, the craftsmanship of cosplay is a big draw. Her father, a Ukrainian immigrant, taught her how to sew, and he still plays a big role in the creation of her costumes.

"Back then, we had nothing. My father basically sewed a lot of my clothing," Nakhodkina said.

The Brooklyn College student, who plans to pursue a career in business, will be cosplaying as Yoko Kurama, a demon fox, from the manga series "YuYu Hakusho."

While Chronum and Nakhodkina have been cosplaying for a few years, others have been practicing the art for decades.

Charles Battersby, a 43-year-old actor from Brooklyn, said he began cosplaying 20 years ago.

Dressed in a blue Victorian gown worn by Elizabeth in the video game "BioShock," Battersby said he enjoys seeing people's reactions to his costumes.

"People will run to you from across the convention floor just to shake your hand or take a picture of you, because you like the thing that they like," said Battersby, who is known for cosplaying as Princess Peach of "Super Mario."

Standing by Battersby, Chronum recalled when she dressed in pink as Taiwan from the series "Hetalia" for last year's show.

"I made a lot of little girls smile. I made their day. I stopped kids from crying," she said. "It was a great experience."

For information on the event, see our story about the Cherry Blossom Festival on page 19.

Strong community

"It's a really supportive community, so part of this is about people finding other friends with similar interests." Anita Jacobs

Lots of costumes

40

Some 40 cosplayers will be in Sunday's show.

LAURA SHIN
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Manhattan

Boy, 2, survives fall from third-story window

A 2-year–old boy miraculously survived a fall from an unguarded third-story window in Manhattan early Wednesday morning, police said.

The boy fell from a window without safety guards in his family's third-floor apartment at around 1:20 a.m. on Chrystie Street in the Lower East Side, police said.

The toddler landed on top of a flexible trash can shed on the sidewalk below, which police said likely broke his fall. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital in stable condition.

ANNA SANDERS

Central Park

Tavern on the Green set to reopen

One of New York City's most iconic eateries will open its famous double doors once again.

The famous Central Park restaurant Tavern on the Green will welcome diners on Thursday night.

The building, which closed in 2010, underwent a complete renovation, including the restoration of its original Victorian Gothic facades.

Tavern on the Green
GETTY IMAGES

In 2012, the city awarded the space to Philadelphia-based restaurateurs Jim Caiola and David Salama. The reimagined Tavern on the Green's plates range from $15 for wood-roasted Japanese eggplant to $54 for a New York strip steak. CHESTER JESUS SORIA

Birthday salute to the Bard of Avon

New Yorkers gathered in Bryant Park on Wednesday to celebrate the 450th birthday of William Shakespeare. The park hosted recitations of the bard's work by the Drilling Company. Attendees also took turns reading his work and writing quotes on a canvas. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Council budget asks for 1K cops

Protect. Additional officers are needed to reduce traffic fatalities, council speaker says.

The city council wants more badges on the beat. / GETTY IMAGES

If the city council has its way, the police force might soon add 1,000 new officers to its ranks.

The council released its response to Mayor Bill de Blasio's budget for the upcoming fiscal year, on Wednesday, looking to fill gaps in his proposed $73 billion budget. In total, the council asked for $257 million — 0.4 percent of the overall budget — to pay for more police, free school lunches, a committee to explore the city's property tax, improved veterans services and more.

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito said the request for additional officers — at a cost of $94.3 million — reinforces the agenda laid out by the de Blasio administration, specifically his plan to reduce traffic-related deaths.

"As we continue to move forward as a city, as we continue to grow in wanting to keep our crime rates low, in wanting true community partnership between the police and our local communities, we need to grow our police force," Mark-Viverito said.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA
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Environment

Earth Week tip of the day

Metro is pleased to announce we are once again partnering with Earth Day New York for this year's Earth Week.

Earth Day New York has a simple tip of the day that can help green your home: Make sure to turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth, soaping your hands or shaving, and you could save 8 gallons of water a day.

Be sure to visit Earth Day New York's 2014 events in Grand Central Terminal at Vanderbilt Avenue and East 43rd Street from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. today. Exhibits by partner organizations will be on display outside.

For more tips on how you can help save the environment, visit EarthDayNY.org. METRO

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2014 #NYCPoetweet winners

Contest. Hark! Every year, Metro partners with the mayor's office to promote Poem in Your Pocket Day with a contest on Twitter. Behold, the winning entries.

In the digital age, it's the phone that is mightier than the sword. / ISTOCK

Not only is this National Poetry Month, but today is New York City's 12th annual Poem in Your Pocket Day, when residents are encouraged to write their own poem or borrow one from their favorite poet. All you need to participate is to carry a poem and share it with your friends, family, classmates and colleagues today.

Since 2010, Metro has partnered with the city to promote this special day with the #NYCPoetweet Twitter poetry contest. From April 1-8, New Yorkers and Twitter users from across the country tweeted their best original rhymes, verses and haikus using #NYCpoetweet. Hundreds of entries were submitted for the competition, and New York City's first lady Chirlane McCray — herself a published poet — selected this year's winners.

You can check out a video of her reviewing the finalists on her official blog at flonyc.tumblr.com. **METRO**

No. 1

"Complacency / is the opposite of love and I've been waiting / so long for someone to split an avocado with."

Ines @locaines

No. 2

"Fullmoon white blends with street lights tonight. Through window blinds streams. Harlem, half dreams"

Daniel Carlton @ImDanielCarlton

No. 3

"Dept. of Health fights grime / If you C something / try and get at least a B- next time. #gradepending"

Scottt Raven @ScotttRaven

No. 4

"Scrape the shovel / Slosh the puddle / Slap this winter down / Click-clack the heel / Sing-song the sax / Stir this summer town"

America @america123

No. 5

"Birdsong under scaffolding / green shoots in blackest dirt / hello, first bare leg of Spring / take my yellow cab / I'll walk today."

M M De Voe @mmdevoe

Transit. Overnight Q trains to run local in Manhattan this December

Straphangers will soon get some late-night relief on the Q train.

Overnight Q trains will run local starting in December, making all stops in Manhattan between midnight and 6:30 a.m., the Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced Wednesday.

This means commuters at five local stops in Manhattan will see wait times decrease from an average of 10 minutes to just 5, officials said. Travel times are also expected to decrease.

The five stations — Prince Street, Eighth Street-NYU, 23rd Street, 28th Street and 49th Street — are currently only served by the N train late at night.

"As we saw increased ridership at local stations along the Broadway Line, it simply made sense to provide these customers with more service," New York City Transit President Carmen Bianco said in a statement.

The Q will train soon stop at five local stations in Manhattan between midnight and 6:30 a.m. / METRO ARCHIVE

Based on MetroCard data from October 2012, New York City Transit's Operations Planning Division found that shifting Q train service to the local track overnight would see reduced travel times of more than 6 minutes on average. Commuters at express stations would only see increased travel times of about a minute with the change.

Local late-night service on the Q train would save roughly 6,000 customer travel minutes every night, officials said.

The service change will cost roughly $73,000 annually. **ANNA SANDERS**

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Justice Department reviews clemency for drug offenders

Reduced sentences. It's part of the administration's plan to reduce spending on federal prisons.

Justice Department estimates thousands of inmates may be eligible. / GETTY IMAGES

The U.S. Justice Department laid out new clemency guidelines on Wednesday that are expected to make thousands of drug offenders eligible for a reduction in the sentences they are currently serving.

Under the new guidelines, inmates that were sentenced under laws that have since changed, who have served at least 10 years of their sentence and are nonviolent, may be reexamined by the Justice Department and suggested to the president for clemency.

Deputy Attorney General James Cole, who announced the details of the plan, said the most obvious candidates for review were those sentenced before a 2010 law that lowered the terms for crack cocaine possession charges.

"These older, stringent punishments that are out of line with sentences imposed under today's laws erode people's confidence in our criminal justice system," Cole said.

Under U.S. law, the president can reduce sentences or pardon Americans serving sentences for federal crimes, though the power has historically been used on a case-by-case basis.

Should President Barack Obama grant clemency to each new eligible inmate, the move would be an unprecedented use of clemency power. The Justice Department estimates thousands of inmates may be eligible. REUTERS

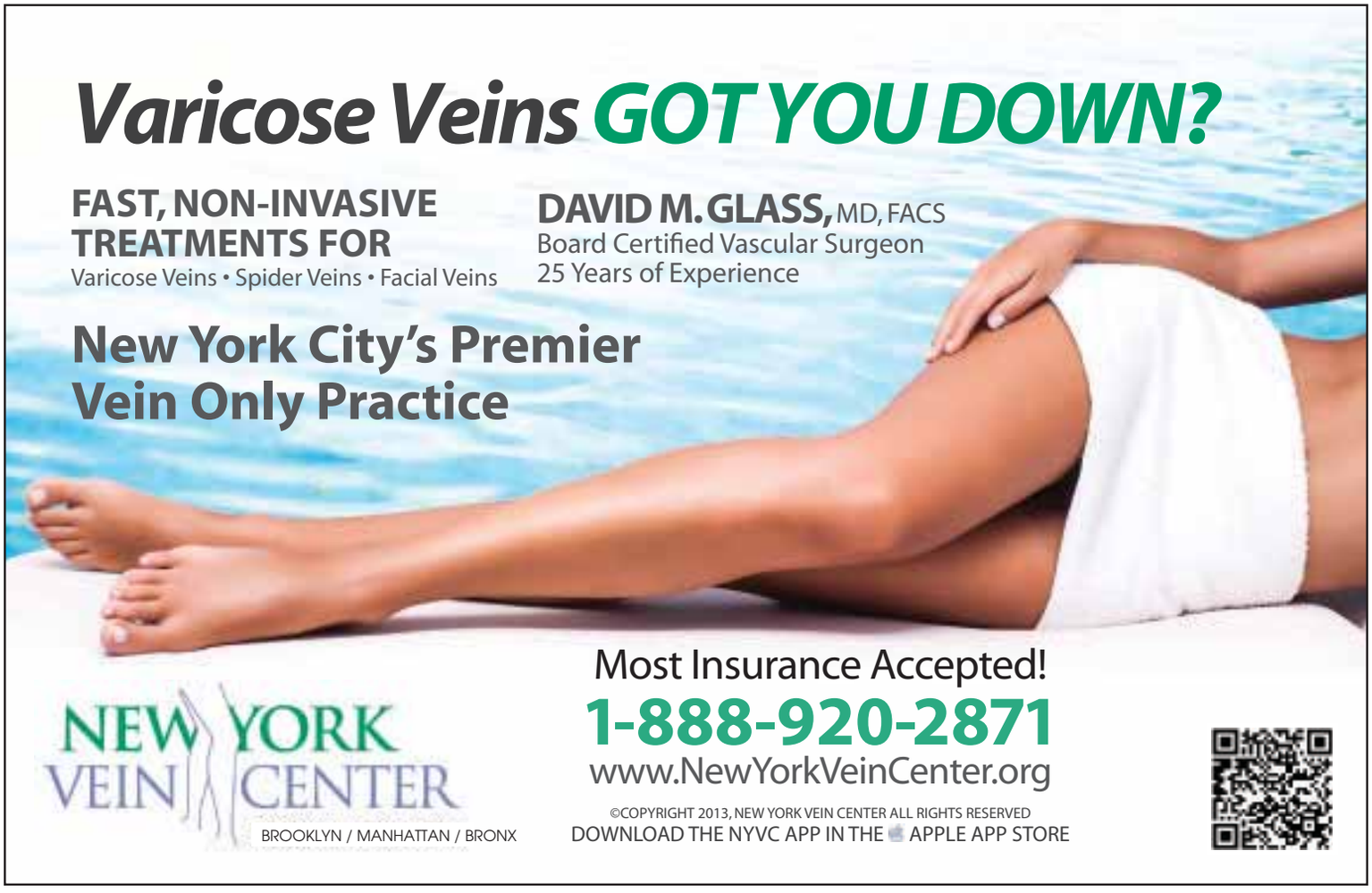
Commutations

11

Over eight years in office, president Bush granted 11 sentence commutations.

61

Clinton granted 61.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South Korea. Student corpses show they tried to escape ferry

A woman and child pay tribute at a group memorial altar for victims of the sunken passenger ferry. / GETTY IMAGES

South Korean divers swam though dark, cold waters into a sunken ferry on Wednesday, feeling for children's bodies with their hands in a maze of cabins, corridors and upturned decks as they searched for the hundreds still missing.

The divers, with oxygen and communications lines trailing, can only see a few inches in front of them in the wreckage of the ship that started sinking a week ago after a sharp turn. Most of the victims were high school children, who were told to stay where they were for their own safety.

And most of the bodies found in the last two days had broken fingers, presumably from the children frantically trying to climb the walls or floors to escape in their last moments, media said.

"We are trained for hostile environments, but it's hard to be brave when we meet bodies in dark water," diver Hwang Dae-sik told Reuters, as the funerals of 25 students were held near the capital, Seoul.

Prosecutors raided the home of Yoo Byung-un, the head of a family that owns the Chonghaejin Marine Co. Ltd., the company that operated the Sewol ferry. They also raided his son's home and the office of a church with which Yoo has been associated, said a prosecutor who did not want to be identified. REUTERS

Moscow

Russia says it will respond if interests attacked

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused the United States of being behind the political upheaval in Ukraine and said Moscow would respond if its interests came under attack.

Lavrov's comments came a day after Vice President Joe Biden was in the Ukrainian capital with promises of support for the pro-Western government, and a warning to Russia not to interfere in Ukraine.

The crisis in Ukraine, has dragged Russia's relations with the West to their lowest since the Cold War. REUTERS

Search continues

Australia, Malaysia vow to keep searching for plane

Australia and Malaysia vowed on Wednesday to keep searching for a missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 despite no sign of wreckage after almost seven weeks, and as bad weather again grounded aircraft and an undersea drone neared the end of its first full mission.

But Australian authorities said unidentified material washed up on the coast of Western Australia was being investigated for possible links to the plane. The finding of unspecified material on the southern tip of Western Australia was the first report of debris in weeks. REUTERS

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Japan visit. President Obama seeks to ease Asian allies' doubt

President Barack Obama used a state visit to Japan on Thursday to try to reassure Tokyo and other Asian allies of his commitment to ramping up U.S. engagement in the region, despite Chinese complaints that Washington's real aim is to contain Beijing's rise.

It was unclear whether a last-ditch round of talks between U.S. and Japanese negotiators would yield a breakthrough on a two-way trade pact seen as crucial to a broader trans-Pacific agreement that Obama has championed.

The challenge for Obama during his week-long, four-nation tour will be to convince Asian partners that Washington is serious about its promised strategic "pivot" toward the region, while at the same time not harming ties with China, the world's second-biggest economy.

The difficulty of Obama's balancing act was underscored hours before he arrived on Wednesday night when Chinese state media criticized U.S. policy in the region as "a carefully calculated scheme to cage the rapidly developing Asian giant." REUTERS

President Barack Obama waves as he disembarks Air Force One in Tokyo. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"Our engagement with China does not and will not come at the expense of Japan or any other ally."

Obama told Japan's Yomiuri newspaper while Washington welcomed China's peaceful rise.

Chelsea Elizabeth

Soldier convicted of WikiLeaks crimes granted name change

Former U.S. soldier Bradley Manning, who is serving 35 years in prison for turning over classified files to WikiLeaks, can exchange the name Bradley for Chelsea to reflect her desire to be treated as a woman, a judge in Kansas ruled on Wednesday.

Manning's name is legally changed to Chelsea Elizabeth Manning, according to the decision handed down by Leavenworth County District Judge David King. Manning will be issued a new birth certificate to reflect the name change. Manning's gender remains male, but Manning identifies as a woman.

Manning was sentenced to prison in August for violating the Espionage Act. REUTERS

Assess the amount

Supreme Court limits restitution in child pornography case

The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that a man convicted of possessing child pornography is only required to pay a proportion of the total damages that victims can seek in restitution.

The decision ended confusion within the federal judiciary about how to assess the amount convicts could be ordered to pay under a restitution law enacted in 1994 as part of the Violence Against Women Act over digital photographs distributed on the Internet and viewed by thousands of people.

The nine justices were divided, with five saying that defendants should be required to pay a limited amount but not a token or nominal one. Three justices said the law did not allow for any restitution in the case by the victim, named only as Amy, from a Brownsboro, Texas man, Doyle Paroline, who was convicted of possessing child pornography that included two photographs of her. REUTERS

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Bridge over troubled deals

'Bridgegate' scandal threatens next World Trade Center tower

The "Bridgegate" scandal that rocked New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's administration earlier this year is threatening a deal that would allow developer Larry Silverstein to finish building the next World Trade Center skyscraper.

Silverstein needs a guarantee from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to secure a $1.2 billion construction loan for 3 World Trade Center. On Wednesday, the agency's board will vote on whether to approve that guarantee, part of a deal that would provide hundreds of millions of dollars more to the Port Authority and allow it to foreclose on the $2.4 billion tower if Silverstein cannot pay debt service costs.

But Silverstein's deal, even with the concessions to the Port Authority, has become entangled in a fierce debate within the agency over its mission, including whether it should be in the real estate business at all.

Those questions have emerged since the so-called Bridgegate scandal erupted earlier this year. Operatives loyal to Christie's administration caused massive traffic jams on the George Washington Bridge in September, an alleged act of political retribution against a local New Jersey mayor who did not endorse Christie for reelection. REUTERS

It's peaceful on the Manhattan side of the George Washington Bridge. / GETTY IMAGES

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Saturated market

AT&T margin weakness fuels concern about U.S. cellular sector

Increasingly aggressive discounting is taking a toll on AT&T Inc. and U.S. cellular rivals as they struggle to attract customers in a nearly saturated market.

While recent price cuts by AT&T led to a surge in first-quarter subscriber adds that beat Wall Street expectations, average revenue per user fell, triggering a 3.2 percent share drop.

Other wireless carriers' shares also declined, with T-Mobile US, which has roiled the industry with a series of discounts and new pricing plans, down 2.8 percent.

AT&T's result and the share fallout is the latest sign of how U.S. cellular phone providers are having to resort to discounting in a bid to retain or lure clients. REUTERS

Spacewalkers to replace failed computer outside space station

Research. The computer is one of two that control critical systems outside the space station.

Two U.S. astronauts wrapped up a speedy spacewalk outside the International Space Station on Wednesday, replacing a failed computer that backs up one used to control critical systems such as the station's solar panel wings.

Flight engineers Rick Mastracchio and Steve Swanson left the station's Quest airlock just after 10 a.m. for what was expected to be a more than two-hour spacewalk. They replaced the failed computer and got back into the space station with an hour to spare.

The station, a $100 billion project of 15 nations, is a permanently staffed research laboratory that flies about 260 miles above Earth. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"I don't see any obvious damage."

Mastracchio said as he and Swanson inspected the unit, which failed on April 11.

"Nice and clean. Great job," Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen from NASA's Mission Control in Houston radioed to the spacewalkers as they prepared to close the hatch.

U.S. spacewalks generally last more than six hours, but except for emergency repairs, NASA spacewalks remain suspended while engineers assess last year's spacesuit failure that nearly drowned Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano after his helmet filled with water.

The leak was traced to a blocked filter, and NASA flew parts to the station for astronauts to make spacesuit repairs before a pair of emergency spacewalks in December to fix the station's cooling system. Those astronauts also had snorkels and absorbent pads in their helmets in case of similar leaks.

Mastracchio, making his ninth spacewalk, and Swanson, on his fifth, also included snorkels and pads in their helmets.

A new spacesuit is among the cargo aboard the Space Exploration Technologies' Dragon capsule that reached the station on Sunday.

NASA expects to resume routine spacewalks for maintenance and less-pressing repairs in July. REUTERS

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Sabra Sasson is the founder and principal of Sabra Law Group. Sabra has more than 16 years of experience representing clients during the most stressful events in their lives. Specifically, Sabra represents clients in the process of divorce, premarital planning and prenuptial agreements as well as when buying and selling residential real estate. She is also an experienced and talented mediator who has successfully mediated both complicated and simple divorces, including divorces involving children with special needs. Prior to establishing her firm, Sabra was In-House counsel to a Brooklyn real estate developer and was an associate for several years with various law firms in Long Island and Manhattan. Sabra believes that her clients are smart and with her guidance they are well informed and empowered to make the best choices and decisions during the important events in their lives in a calm, clear way and with less stress. She is a graduate of Brandeis University and Hofstra University School of Law.

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Goggles. Facebook gets US antitrust approval to buy Oculus

Oculus virtual reality goggles were on display as part of "The Oculus Rift Experience" at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival in New York City. / GETTY IMAGES

Social network giant Facebook Inc. has won U.S. antitrust approval to buy Oculus VR Inc., a two-year-old maker of virtual reality goggles, the Federal Trade Commission said on Wednesday.

Facebook said on March 25 that it planned to buy Oculus for $2 billion in its first-ever hardware deal. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said at the time that the proposed transaction reflected his company's desire to bet on "the platforms of tomorrow."

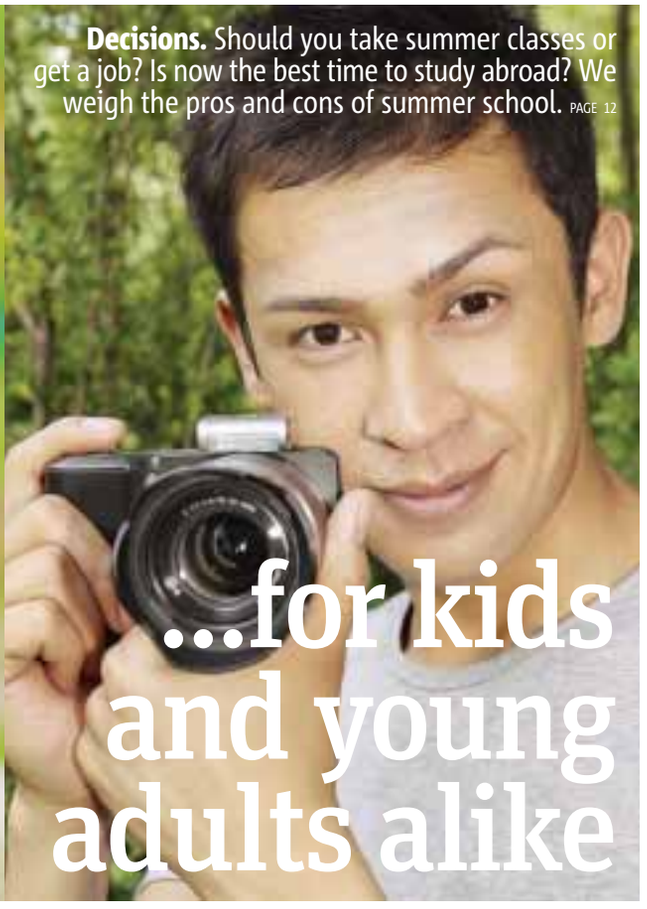
The deal was on a list of several proposed transactions that have been cleared by the U.S. Department of Justice and FTC. The commission puts out an updated list several times a week.

The Oculus buy was one of several high-profile purchases by Facebook, which recently won antitrust approval to acquire Whatsapp, an instant messaging service for smartphones, for $19 billion. It also bought the photo-sharing app Instagram in 2012.

Facebook was at $66.97 per share, down 1 percent, in late-morning trading on Wednesday. REUTERS

Discovery Zone. Check out the "smartest" camps where kids build robots, do DNA research, learn to code and can even earn college credits. PAGES 14-16

Summer plans come into focus...



Decisions. Should you take summer classes or get a job? Is now the best time to study abroad? We weigh the pros and cons of summer school. PAGE 12

...for kids and young adults alike

PLUS

Highlights

You won't believe these camps exist!

"I'm bored" will not be uttered this summer. We round up the most creative summer camps, from a "Game of Thrones" fantasy battle camp to a "Harry Potter" fan's dream, where dodgeball games are traded for quidditch matches.

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Need to know.
Learn the pros and cons by taking an advanced college course.

The benefits and challenges of intensive summer programs

Advanced summer programs are taught by several experts — including academics and practitioners — rather than one professor. Some of these experts are academics (from a variety of disciplines) and some are practitioners. Universities organize some of these programs, while others are organized by non-governmental organizations. Your university or department might have a list of such summer programs or institutes.

Intensive summer courses are "intense," but you'll have a leg up on everyone who took it easy over the summer. / COLOURBOX

Benefits

Go abroad

Summer programs can be a more affordable way to study abroad instead of going during the school year. There are still costs involved, however, and scholarships are rare.

Try another campus

If a university organizes an intensive program, they likely specialize in that field, so you might want to attend a program at an institution to which you might apply for a post-graduate degree or diploma. During the program, you will meet faculty and get a sense of the campus resources. You might even be able to meet a potential supervisor.

Create a new network

You will meet students, academics and practitioners from around the world who share your interests, allowing you to build a global network.

Challenges

Summer employment

With attending classes during the day and reading course materials or preparing for presentations during the evening, you will not have time to work. It might be difficult to find summer employment that allows you to take one or two weeks off, but it is not impossible.

Visas

Depending on what country you live in, where the program is and what you're studying, it might be difficult to obtain a visa. It is best to apply to these programs as early as possible because they tend to give international students quick responses so that they can obtain a visa.

Transfer credits

Obtaining credits is challenging. Be sure to work out these details ahead of time, especially if you can only afford to take the course if you get credit.

Don't over-commit

You might only be in the classroom for one or two weeks, but that does not mean the program will only require that much of your time!

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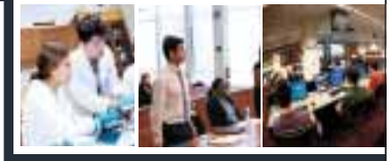

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10 Coolest summer camps for kids

Best summer ever. Forget popsicle stick crafts and "Kumbayah." Today's activities are more creative than ever.

A "Game of Thrones" camp, a camp on a private island and a roller coaster camp are just a few of the places you can send your kids this summer. Read on for our list of the coolest camps in North America.

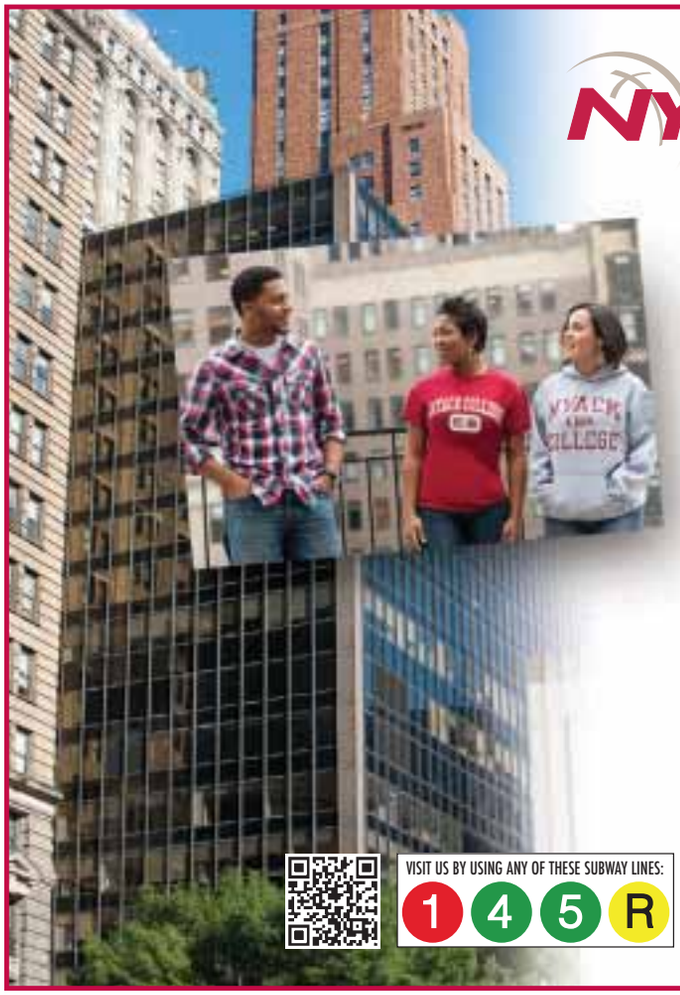
1 Cheley Colorado Camp, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colo. (www.cheley.com) If your kid loves adventure and the outdoors, they'll love Cheley Colorado Camp. It offers activities from horseback riding and hiking to archery and riflery.

3 New York Film Academy Camp, New York, N.Y. (www.nyfa.edu) The Film Academy Camp gives preteens and teens the opportunity to learn about filmmaking, animation, acting and more.

4 Pali Overnight Adventures, Running Springs, Calif. (www.paliadventures.com) This 74-acre mountain camp provides 16 specialty programs, such as a fashion design program, Hollywood stunt camp and filmmaking camp.

5 EAA's Air Academy, Oshkosh, Wis. (www.youngeagles.org) This camp will teach kids virtually all aspects of flight. Depending on the age and session, campers can participate in building and flying model rockets, watching flight demonstrations, taking a ride in a flight stimulator and learning about aircraft construction and maintenance.

6 Long Lake Camp for the Arts, Adirondack, N.Y.



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For thrill-seekers

2 Thrill Coaster Tours, Woodbridge Township, NJ (www.thrillcoastertours.com) This teen program allows kids to visit various amusement parks and try out roller coasters across the country. Campers will travel by luxury bus and stay at Marriott hotels as they go from city to city checking out 15 very different amusement parks.

At Thrill Coaster Tours, campers visit 15 amusement parts. / COLOURBOX

(www.longlakecamp.com) This 200-acre camp is open to students ages 10 to 16 who want to study disciplines in music, acting, painting or dance. At the end of each session, parents see their kids perform in plays, circus performances, stand-up comedy acts and rock concerts.

7 Cape Hatteras Summer Camp, Hatteras Island, N.C. (www.capehatterassummerprogram.com) Held on a private island, this camp provides kids with horseback riding, swimming, surfing and the chance to explore all of the exclusive Hatteras.

8 Camp Motorsport, Clover, Va. (www.campmotorsport.com) Camp Motorsport teaches kids ages 11 to 16 how to ride everything from go-karts to half-scale race cars. This 52-acre camp is complete with a 17-acre lake for swimming and fishing, paved go-karting, bike trails, sports fields and over 20 miles of off-road tracks.

9 Camp Kern: "Harry Potter" Week, Oregonia, Ohio (www.campkern.org) For one whole week, kids will cease to be a muggle. This summer camp will give them a taste of what it's like to be at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry as they make potions, play quidditch and learn the spellbook.

10 Camp Rivendell: "Game of Thrones" Fantasy Battle, Calgary, Canada (www.regnumchristi.org) In addition to swordplay and fort building, campers will learn how to live a "castle life," which includes building functioning catapults and participating in a spirited arena battle. Kids can also return year after year to progress into kinghood.

JENNIFER VALDEZ
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CEWD

The 'smartest' summer camps across the country

Brain power. Check out these summer camps across the U.S. that emphasize learning while still being fun.

If you're worried that your child's brain might turn to mush during the summer, don't. These five camps have a strong emphasis on learning, without feeling like summer school.

Brooklyn Robot Foundry

303 Third Ave.
Brooklyn, 347-762-6840
www.brooklynrobotfoundry.com
Kids ages 5 to 12 will be introduced to the basics of mechanical engineering. They'll build robot vehicles that they can take home as mementos and will participate in the building of a 14-foot-high robot Godzilla. In their introduction to programming, campers learn to build robot sensors and moving parts.

i2 Camp

Various Locations
646-650-2900
www.i2camp.org
Kids ages 10 to 13 will take part in fun yet educational activities such as building remote-controlled vehicles, analyzing their own DNA and looking for forensic evidence at a simulated crime scene. Kids will take field trips to museums and science centers and listen to guest speakers who are experts in astronomy, forensics and other fields.

iD Tech

Various Locations
888-709-8324
www.idtech.com
iD Tech takes place at more than 80 prestigious universities, including Princeton, Yale and Harvard. Students are immersed in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum and are given the opportunity to design games, apps and websites. The technology is cutting-edge, and the student-to-teacher ratio is only 8:1.

Gene-ius

DNA Learning Center

Various Locations in New York, 516-367-5170
www.dnalc.org
Students in grades 6-12 will learn the ins-and-outs of biology and DNA research at this camp. Fun and engaging activities involving DNA extraction, genetic engineering, cloning, forensics and more are offered.

SuperCamp

Various Locations
800-285-3276
www.supercamp.com
SuperCamp offers a bevy of benefits for your child, even after summer ends. They've partnered with SAGE Tuition Rewards to offer participants up to $2,500 in college tuition credits. The credits are redeemable at more than 300 colleges nationwide. Furthermore, SuperCamp also meets elective requirements at many high schools, meaning your child will have one less class to worry about during the school year.

ROBERT CRISCOLA
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If only school was half as fun as these summer camps. / STOCKBYTE

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2 CULTURE

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
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1 Prepon is not dating Cruise, 'kay?

Laura Prepon is laughing off rumors that she's dating fellow Scientologist Tom Cruise. "I'm flattered because I think he's hot, so I'm like, 'Oh, that's nice.' And apparently he's very gentlemanly with me," the "Orange Is the New Black" star joked with the Daily Beast during an interview.

"Apparently we get along great and he knows that I have a favorite bottle of wine that I didn't even know I had."

Prepon expressed her further disappointment with the tabloid reports during an interview with SheKnows.com, calling the story "false," for the record.

"Apparently, I'm dating Tom Cruise right now and apparently, he doesn't want me doing ['Orange'] because I portray a lesbian and I'm a Scientologist."

And how does she know for sure that she's not dating Cruise? Because Prepon has never formally met him, which is a tough obstacle to overcome in a relationship.

2 Lupita Nyong'o named Most Beautiful

Congratulations to Lupita Nyong'o, officially the most beautiful human on the face of planet Earth (2014).

Nyong'o rocketed to fame in the role of Patsy in "12 Years a Slave," for which she won an Oscar. Growing up surrounded by Western images of attractiveness made it difficult to see her own beauty, she claims. "Light skin and long, flowing, straight hair," she told People, the magazine which has had the right to name the most beautiful people alive for as long as anybody can remember. "Subconsciously, you start to appreciate those things more than what you possess."

This is the third time that People has named a black woman its Most Beautiful since beginning the tradition in 1990. Previous honorees were Halle Berry in 2003 and Beyonce in 2012. MELINDA TAUB

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

3 Oprah's ex-stepmother tells all

Oprah's ex-stepmother, Barbara Winfrey, is out for revenge. After divorcing from Oprah's father, Vernon, Barbara was pushed out of the house where she lived with Vernon — which Oprah owned. Now Barbara is retaliating with a dishy interview in the Daily Mail. Here are the best bits:

1 She claims she has never seen Oprah and her long-term boyfriend, Stedman Graham, kiss, hold hands or act romantic.

2 "If it's not more than friendship, they're giving every appearance that it is," she said about the close friendship of Oprah and Gayle King.

3 Oprah is obsessed with skin color. "It's a real thing for her. It's one of the things she liked about Stedman. He has what we call 'high yellow' skin and soft hair. ... She liked that."

4 Oprah forces everyone to sign a confidentiality agreement. "Once you're in Oprah's world, she owns you," she noted.

5 There are rumors that Vernon is not Winfrey's biological father. Barbara claims he wanted to do the DNA test, but Oprah refused. "She knows it would prove he IS her father. She can't quite believe that such a silly man could make such a magnificent creature," Barbara said.

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Life is just a bowl of cherry blossoms

Spring. Celebrate another season in bloom at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's festival.

Flip over a 100-yen coin in Japan, and cherry blossoms bloom on the back. This demonstrates their importance to Japanese culture. The meaning follows Buddhist philosophy: Life is beautiful but short, just like the annual spring bloom of the cherry trees.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden celebrates this annual tradition of flower-viewing, known as hanami in Japan, with Sakura Matsuri, its annual cherry blossom festival. Now in its 33rd year, the two-day event remains the largest of its kind in a public garden in the U.S.

As always, the main attraction is the 200 trees lining the Cherry Esplanade. But music, dance and fashion also feature, taking over the main stage. Taiko drumming, Nihon Buyo classical dance and J-pop music by Hitomi Himekawa and the Rainbow Bubble Girls share the spotlight with a traditional kimono fashion show and "Kill Bill"-style Japanese sword fighting. The annual cosplay show is another highlight, with extravagant costumes based on anime movies and TV shows, manga and video games. (See more on page 2.)

The director of communications at the garden, Elizabeth Reina-Longoria, hopes this year's festival breaks the 2011 record of 70,000 visitors. But she emphasizes that more contemplative experiences can be had in the days and weeks following the festival. "The philosophy behind hanami views the cherry blossom season as symbolic of the larger cycle of life," she adds, "so visitors should consider returning after the festival to watch as the cherry petals fall to the ground."

If you go

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Quoted

"The philosophy behind hanami views the cherry blossom season as symbolic of the larger cycle of life."

Elizabeth Reina-Longoria, director of communications at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden

In theaters

THE LATE PAUL WALKER STARS IN "BRICK MANSIONS." / PHILIPPE BOSSE

Admit One

1 'Brick Mansions'
Ten years ago the French film "District B13" introduced parkour to action films. Now it has been remade with the late Paul Walker as the good cop in an "Escape From New York"-style criminal compound.

2 'The Other Woman'
Nick Cassavetes does another film that his father, director John Cassavetes, likely never would've touched: a comedy in which three women (Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann and Kate Upton) gang up on the man they're all unwittingly sleeping with.

3 'The Quiet Ones'
Don't write this one off as just another ghost movie. Produced by the illustrious Hammer Film studio, the project boasts Oren Moverman, one of the writers on "The Messenger." Jared Harris plays a professor investigating poltergeists, with surely happy results.

4 'Locke'
Hope you like Tom Hardy, because he's the only person in this drama. He plays a construction foreman negotiating his way out of kerfluffles via endless phone calls made from his car. **MATT PRIGGE**

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DIY face scrub

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Joanna Vargas treats celebs like Charlize Theron and Allison Williams. / SKYE PARROTT

Dieters rely on grapefruit to cleanse their bodies, but the fruit's topical properties should not be ignored. Grapefruit can detoxify the skin, making it as dewy as spring grass.

Celebrity facialist Joanna Vargas incorporates the fruit into her Grapefruit Detox Cleanse, available for $50 during Spa Week (after that, it's $250). It starts with a peel, then Vargas' all-natural Vitamin C Face Wash and Exfoliating Mask, which tightens pores and adds a boost of brightness to skin. After extractions (if you so choose to have them), Vargas applies a grapefruit, honey and mandarin mask designed to hydrate. It ends with an oxygen treatment to boost collagen production.

If you can't get in to see the facialist, you can make an at-home face scrub incorporating the seasonal ingredient. "This treatment is loaded with antioxidants, and the grapefruit helps purge all of the toxins so you can renew your skin," Vargas says. "I use my hands to spread this around the face. It feels cool and soothing when you have breakouts."

JOANNA VARGAS SKINCARE VITAMIN C FACE WASH $65, JOANNAVARGAS.COM

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THE #1 SELLING MOUSE KILLER

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Candice Accola: If not for aging, 'I'd buy more wine'

A peek inside her makeup bag

"I'm always hiding dry skin and bags under my eyes, so the main ingredient in my makeup bag is moisture," Accola tells us.

- Clarins Eye Contour Balm: "I just dab some of this on under my eyes and wrinkles are immediately gone and my skin is plumped right back up."
- Amazing Cosmetics Amazing Concealer: "Every once in a while I get unnecessary breakouts. This covers blemishes so well."
- Korres Yogurt Moisturizing Mask: "Let this soak overnight and by the time you wake up your skin feels like a baby's bottom."
- Yves Saint Laurent Touche Eclat: "This helps me look wide awake."

Drugstore lashes are this vampire's cheap beauty trick. / KATE ROMERO

Girl-next-door. In real life, the "Vampire Diaries" star is a regular girl who's not that into running, used to have a unibrow and eats chicken wings.

Candice Accola takes a break from playing the blood-sucking teenager to talk us through her beauty routine:

Cleansing rituals

I take my makeup off with Boscia Makeup-Breakup Cool Cleansing Oil, which is really gentle. In the morning, I just splash on some toner and add a little bit of lotion under my eyes.

Beauty icons

Cate Blanchett and Tilda Swinton are my beauty icons. They have such luminous skin and beautiful cheekbones. I think it's tragic that so many girls bake themselves in tanning beds.

Mourning her unibrow

When I was in middle school a boy on the bus told me I had a unibrow. I went home and tweezed my eyebrows so much they never really grew back.

Morning-after tip

Dealing with hangovers

Anyone claiming to have a miracle hangover cure is just full of it. I just take a hot shower to steam my skin back to life, put on a lot of eye cream and wear really big sunglasses.

Being ageless

My character Caroline is a vampire, so she doesn't age. I'd save a lot of the money on beauty products and buy more wine if growing old weren't an issue. But I have a pretty healthy balance and don't deprive myself. I'm not into running or zen yoga — I need a high-energy class such as Spinning or Ballet Barre. If I'm not eating chicken wings, its probably because I ate some during the weekend at a ball game.

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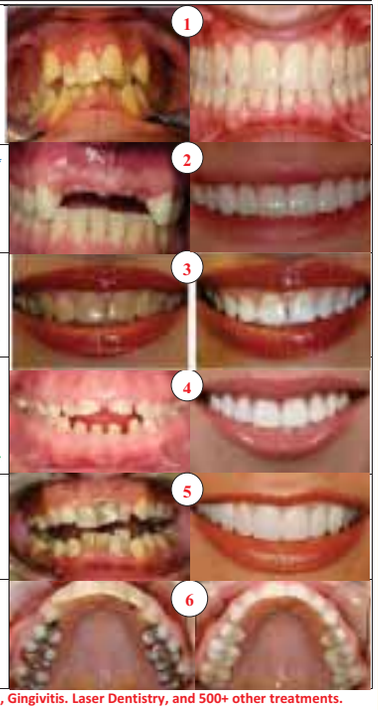

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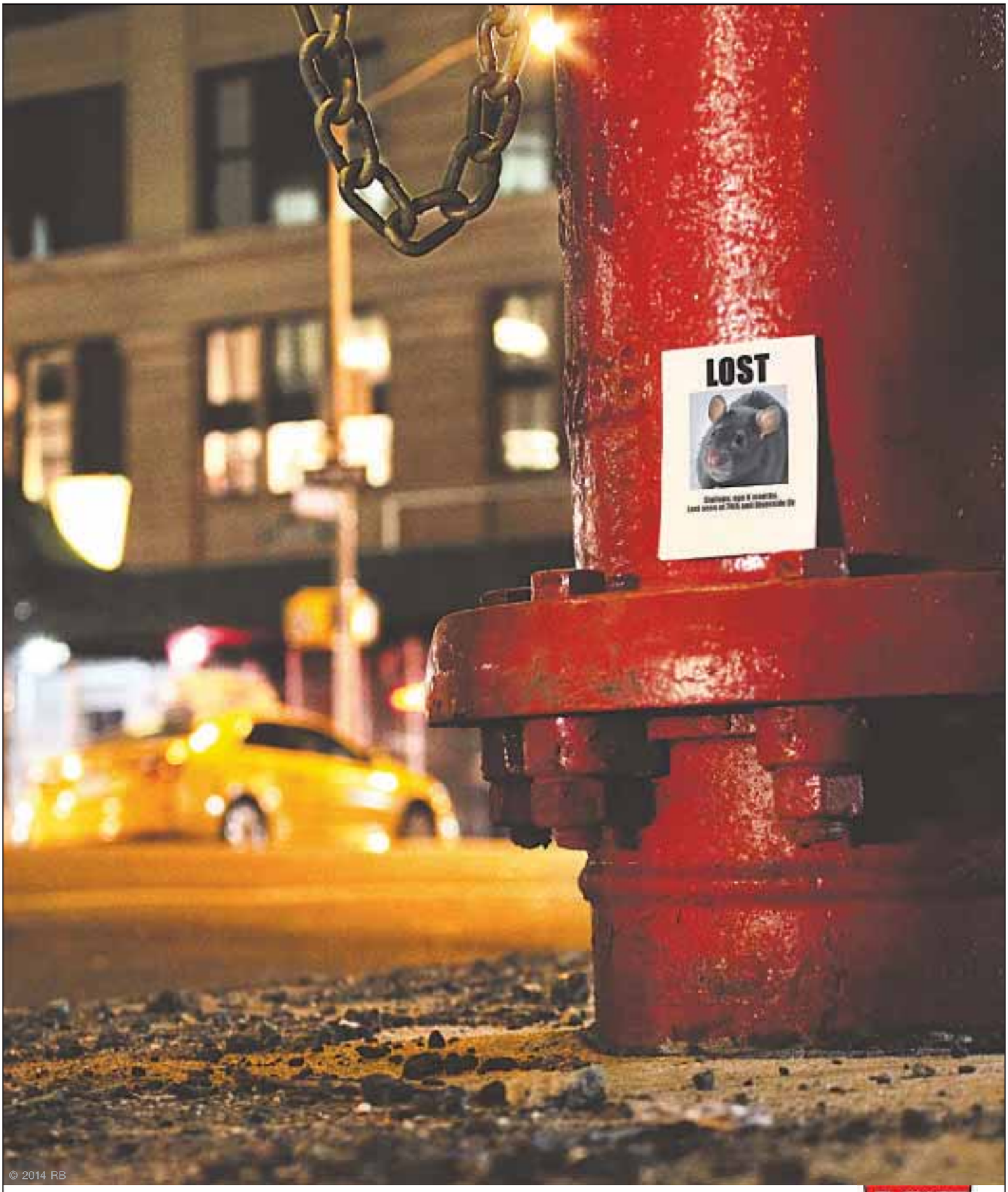

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THE #1 SELLING MOUSE KILLER

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Design festivals: New York gets ready for its close-up

Roundup. Next month will see an impressive list of design festivals in the city bursting with inspiration.

THIS MUNNA ARMCHAIR WILL BE ON SHOW DURING CLERKENWELL DESIGN WEEK.
©COURTESY OF CLERKENWELL DESIGN WEEK

Milan Design Week has come and gone, but there's no rest for the wicked. The industry turns to New York for its next fix, where the citywide NYCxDesign festival will showcase the best in North American and international talent across the fields of architecture, fashion, graphic design, engineering, interiors and urban design. Following that, it's on to London for the increasingly impressive Clerkenwell Design Festival.

NYCxDesign

May 9-20
www.nycxdesign.com
New York's second annual design festival kicks off on May 8 with the Collective 2 exhibit and the Frieze Art Fair, which returns to Manhattan on May 9.

BKLYN Designs

May 9-11
www.bklyndesigns.com
The annual exhibit of Brooklyn designers takes in the hottest local talent in contemporary furnishings, lighting and home accessories.

Sight Unseen Offsite

May 16-20, http://offsite.sightunseen.com
This new SoHo design fair will feature a curated selection of product launches from both emerging designers and forward-thinking brands.

Wanted Design

May 16-19, www.wanteddesignnyc.com
This truly global exhibit will showcase designers from around the world, from Iran to Quebec, with a special emphasis on the Americas.

ICFF

May 17-20, www.icff.com/general-information/facts
The grand finale of NYCxDesign will be the 26th International Contemporary Furniture Fair — one of North America's main platforms for design, featuring 500 exhibitors. METRO

London events

May Design Series

May 18-20, London
This international furniture trade show sees more than 400 exhibitors display the latest in kitchen, bathroom, lighting and general interior decor designs.

Clerkenwell Design Week

May 20-22, London
The U.K. capital's most up-and-coming design festival sees the city's creative district open its doors to the public in a series of installations, showroom events and must-see pop-ups.

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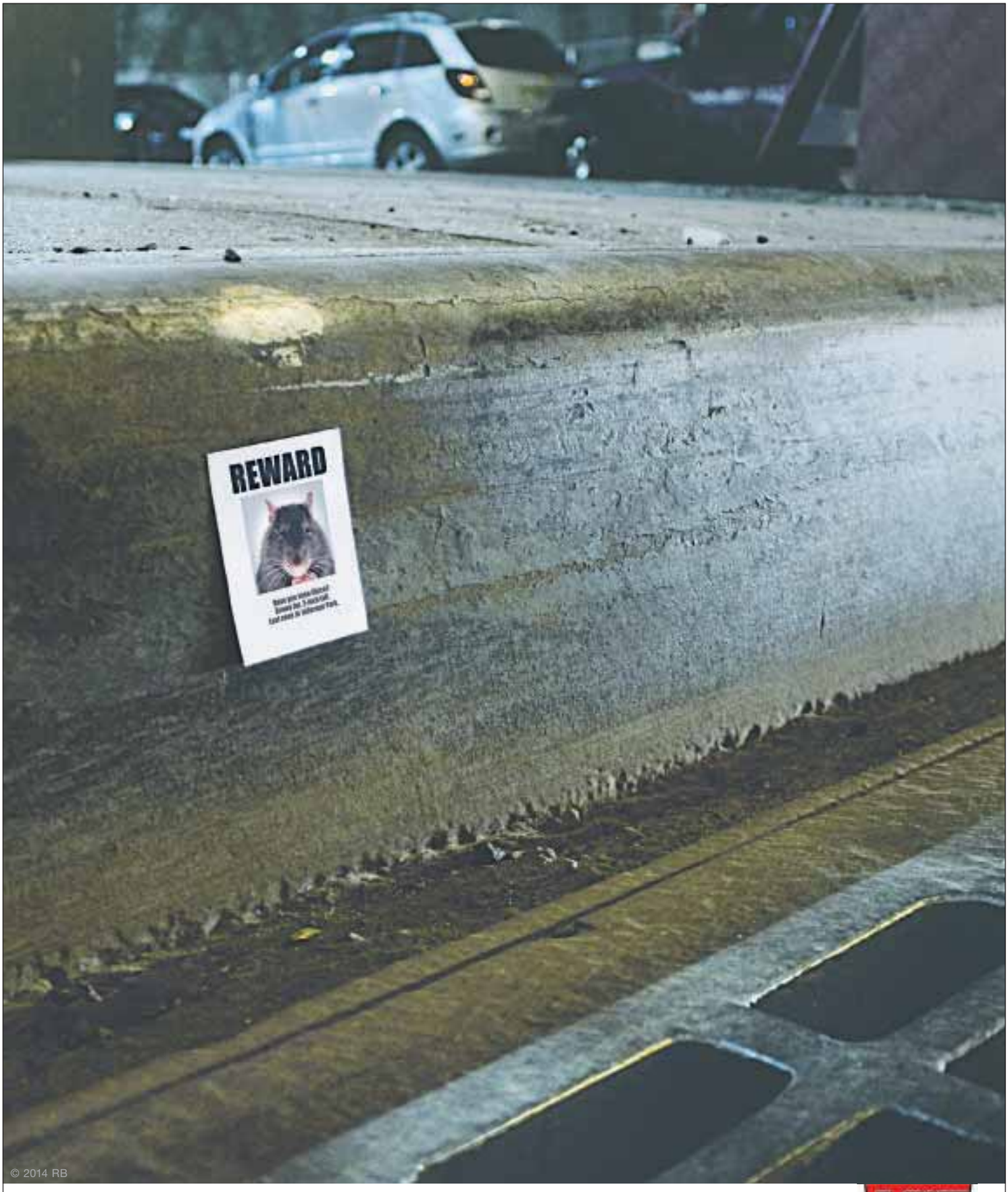

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THE #1 SELLING MOUSE KILLER d·CON

Having ample fun with Ample Hills Creamery

See more at www.metro.us

Ice cream! Make your own at home with help from one of NYC's most popular parlors.

On a little corner shop in Brooklyn, magic happens. That's where husband-and-wife team Brian Smith and Jackie Cuscuna create crave-worthy flavors like Nanatella, Coconut Fudge and Mexican Hot Chocolate at their ice cream shop, Ample Hills Creamery. Now you can recreate the magic at home with aid from their first cookbook, "Ample Hills Creamery: Secrets and Stories from Brooklyn's Favorite Ice Cream Shop." We spoke with Cuscuna, who owns and operates the business with Smith (and is also a full-time teacher!). With the new book, and a second shop opening next month, life is sweet for this pair.

Making ice cream seems so intimidating! Is it really hard to do?
No, it's really not. The cool thing about ice cream is that you can experiment — add a little more, take a little away. It's not as intense as, say, baking would be; some baked goods are more time-sensitive and you have to be very precise with ingredients. We just made a recipe from the book the other day with our kids. It was just like, "What do you think it needs?" They're like, "I think needs a little bit more cinnamon." "OK, add a little more." It's flexible. You can taste it prior to putting it in the ice cream maker. You can't taste a cake before [it's done].

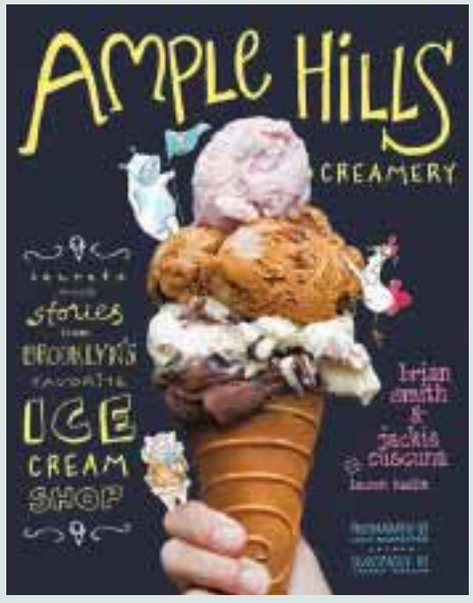
What's your most popular flavor at the shop?
Salted Crack Caramel. I was making cones last week at the shop and I had the book with me, and somebody peeked in and said, "Is that the book? Is the crack recipe in there?"

Cuscuna is at Ample Hills every day after 4 p.m. (when her kids get out of school). / LUCY SCHAEFFER

I think the Peppermint Pattie flavor is also really amazing because it's made with homemade peppermint patties. It's a huge crowd pleaser and everyone loves it.

You create such unique flavors. Do you think people are bored with vanilla, chocolate and strawberry?
I don't think people are necessarily bored with them. I think certain people like simplistic flavors and they don't want a lot of stuff in their ice cream. That I get, I just think that we have so much fun with our flavors, just from creating and naming them and involving the public. Part of it is just not taking ourselves too seriously and trying to make, like, the most artisanal ice cream with goat cheese and sour cherries. [We're] more like, "What do we like to eat? What do our kids like to eat? How can we make a cool flavor combination that everyone would like?"

Try it



What recipes from your book would work best for a beginner?
I think some of the flavors that don't need to be cooked. I think Banana-mon [banana cinnamon] is one of the easier ones because you're not using egg yolks in it, and so therefore you don't need to cook it to pasteurize it. You just need a blender and an ice cream maker.

That's cool that the public gets a say.
We do that a lot. We did a "Walking Dead" Georgia On My Brain, which is blood peach puree, and there's a splash of bourbon in there.

Running an ice cream shop sounds like it'd be all fun all the time. What's not fun about your job?
You would think it's all fun and games, owning an ice cream shop with two kids, but having them want ice cream all the time can be difficult. We're trying to keep them involved in it with us, but at the same time we have to limit their intake. I'm a teacher as well, so [everything] combined is really intense.

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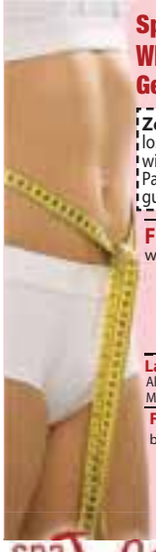
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Cookbook spotlight. 'Buvette: The Pleasure of Good Food'

An American chef — whose mastery of bistro cuisine enabled her to open a Parisian outpost of her New York City "gastrotheque" Buvette to critical acclaim — shares her secrets to recreating the same rustic but chic fare at home in her new cookbook.

Named after chef Jody Williams' New York and Paris restaurants, the 304-page "Buvette: The Pleasure of Good Food" features recipes for traditional French dishes like ratatouille and tarte tatin (apple tart), as well as hearty, family-friendly fare like roasted heirloom apples stuffed with pork

sausage, ricotta fritters and shaved Brussels sprouts with Pecorino and walnuts.

In addition to recipes, the book also includes sidebars on everything from how to remove stains to how to dress up simple foods by serving ice cream, for instance, in a teacup, or serving chocolate mousse in a silver tablespoon.

The book also includes a forward by celebrity chef Mario Batali.

Williams trained with Thomas Keller at Rakel and Lidia Bastianich at Felidia and is known for her appearances as a judge on the Food Network show "Chopped."

She opened Buvette in 2011 in the West Village as a European-style cafe and wine bar, where diners can tuck into French classics like cassoulet, mussels, steak tartare and coq au vin.

AFP

5 Tinder hacks from a master

Tinder ninja. James Hawver says he gets about 50 matches a day on Tinder.

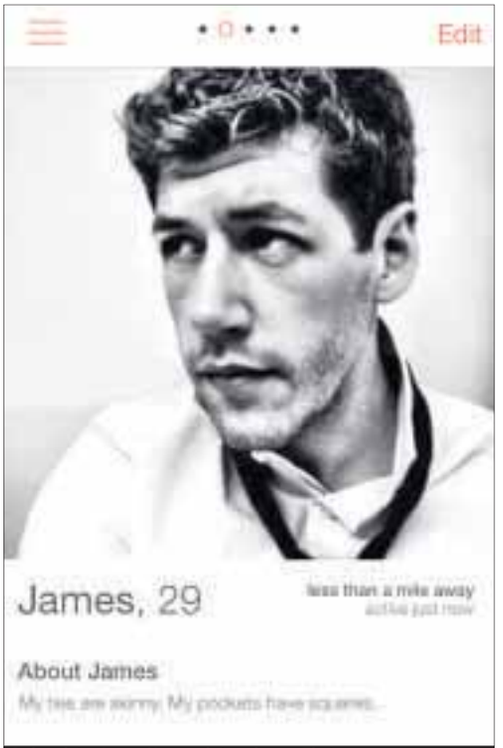
James Hawver, 29, is an online dating master on both OkCupid (he was profiled in "New York Magazine" for having one of the most popular OkCupid profiles) and on Tinder.

What qualifies him as a Tinder ninja? Well, Hawver says he gets 50 matches a day. "I literally delete 96 to 97 percent of the matches," he admits.

The Manhattan-based real estate agent gave us his tips on putting your best Tinder foot forward:

1 "Like" a lot of things on Facebook. Hawver says liking a lot of pages on Facebook increases the number of talking points and common interests you have with other Tinder users. "I like restaurants, I like authors, I like publications. I like a lot of stuff on Facebook, and the way that Tinder displays mutual interests with people you match with is pretty cool," says Hawver. "You can tell very easily what sorts of things you have in common with someone versus if you're on OkCupid, where they would have to list an interest that they have."

2 Use emoticons and be playful in your messages. Hawver says emoticons lighten up communication. "I wasn't a big fan of emoticons before I started online dating, but I read somewhere that they're a good thing to use because when you text or email, a lot of the time tone is hard to convey," he says. "After reading that piece of advice I started using more smiley and winky face emoticons to convey a more friendly, possibly flirtatious tone." In general, Hawver says to keep messages interesting but not overly flirtatious.



Swipe right: James Hawver is burning up Tinder. / PROVIDED

3 Mix it up with your photos. Make sure your photos reflect a full life. Some of Hawver's suggestions include having photos of yourself in an outdoor setting, with friends, in casual clothes and also in formal wear. "Definitely include a full-body photo," he says. "But no — absolutely no — shirtless photos." He also cautions against mirror selfies and duck-lip pics.

4 Don't just say "hey." Hawver says standard greetings such as "Hey" or "Hey. What's up?" are boring. "Don't be boring," he says. "Be interesting. If you match with somebody that you want to talk to, take a look at the interests you have in common and start a conversation based on common interests. ... Comment on an activity they're doing in their photos. Nothing wild or crazy." Another tip for guys? Hawver says never write anything sexual: "You'll probably get blocked right away."

Tip 5

No left swipes

"I pretty much swipe right to everyone," says Hawver. "The only thing I sort of pay attention to while I swipe right pretty fast is if I have a Facebook friend in common with the person. Then I'll stop and see who our mutual friend is. I don't want to swipe right to just anyone who I have a Facebook friend in common with in case I don't really want to chat with that person."

Hawver says swiping right is easier than being selective: "I at least know that the majority of the people I'm matching with are willing to talk to me so I can decide yes or no pretty quickly. ... I don't want to take the time to look back and forth and figure out if I want to talk to someone if there's no chance of the person responding to me."

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Love is all around

Do talk to strangers. Springtime romance can blossom in unexpected places.

VICKI SALEMI
@metronewyork
letters@metro.us

Carol Bloom Stevens and her husband Mark met just by chance while riding a train — and they've been married 40 years! If they can do it, so can you. / PROVIDED

When Carol Bloom Stevens traveled into Manhattan to meet a headhunter after graduating from college, she had no idea cupid was gearing up to strike. Her future husband, Mark Stevens, was en route to see a client at the same time. Moments before their Yonkers train pulled into Grand Central Station, he broke the ice with a simple question: What time is the train going to arrive? They spoke briefly and, moments later, he got her digits.

"I guess he wasn't going to leave it up to fate whether or not he would see me again," she recalls. Three months later, they were engaged — and three months after that, they walked down the aisle.

The two celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary next January and they have two sons, now in their 30s; it's proof that everlasting love can strike anywhere and at any time.

Marina Margulis, CEO and founder of New York Socials, says now is the ideal time to break the pattern of missed connections. Instead of being shy, channel that boldness like Mark did in June of 1974.

"Remember, fear is temporary," says Margulis. "Regret lasts forever."

(And then it lives online at Missed Connections on Craigslist.)

Margulis' icebreaker advice: If you don't have a natural gift of gab, prepare a conversation-starter that's unique and won't elicit one-word answers. And practice!

"The easiest way to start is at a bar. Talk to the bartender," she advises. Ask how long they've worked there and what it takes to become a bartender. From there, you can turn to the people next to you.

As for where to find love, it's anywhere from the A train to the cross-town bus, from park benches to the line at your local bodega.

Suzanne Oshima, matchmaker at Dream Bachelor and Bachelorette, says it can happen anywhere, especially now that winter's over. More people will flock to parks or sit outside office buildings. Plus, people are "going to be happy and in a great mood just because the weather is great."

Carpe diem

Seize the date

1 Log off and look around. Suzanne Oshima of Dream Bachelor & Bachelorette recommends being open to all opportunities, including unexpected places. Don't look down at your phone 24/7 and definitely make eye contact.

2 Ask a question. Turn around in line at the crowded lunch spot and ask someone cute if that person's eaten there before. "You're standing in line, so you'll have plenty of time to talk," she says.

3 Close the deal. "Don't make a big deal about it, just pull out your business card and say, 'I enjoyed talking to you, I would love to continue the conversation.'"

Quoted

"To this day everyone in our family has told their children to ride the train in order to meet Mr. or Mrs. Right. Funny, but it really does happen." Carol Bloom Stevens

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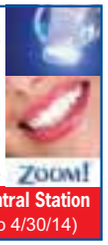

Take kiss-and-tell to the next level

Bedroom boasts. The Nipple app will let you share even more intimate details of your private life with the world than you already do.

YOU WON'T FORGET
HER NAME ANYMORE!
SAVE DETAILS OF YOUR PARTNERS AND PERFORMANCES!
DOES SHE OR HE LIKE ANAL AND HAVE FUN WITH ROPES?
THIS IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD REMEMBER!
Having trouble keeping track of all the people you've gotten busy with? Just ask Nipple. / PROVIDED

Ever wondered how your sex life compares to everyone else's? A new app that helps you keep track of how much action you're getting and gives you the option of sharing the details with the rest of the world could be just the thing for you.

The latest step in the online sharing trend, an app called Nipple lets users keep track of the most intimate details of their sexual encounters, right down to what position they enjoyed, if any toys came into play and whether they reached orgasm or not.

Users can rate their experiences and even note down details such as the names and preferences of different partners, so they never need to find themselves in awkward situations again.

Those who need quantifiable evidence of their skills can create diagrams monitoring how their own performance in bed evolves over time.

Users can choose to remain anonymous or share the details of their extracurricular activities with others via social media. The profiles of the three most active public users are published weekly on the website.

In an aim to encourage people to be more open when talking about sex, users are awarded "nipple points" for inputting intimate details via the site.

Currently in beta testing, Nipple is available as a desktop app, with iOS and Android versions in the pipeline. **AFP**

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Restaurant openings

Villagio on the Park

40 Central Park South, 212-369-4000
In the former Mickey Mantle's space is this new 335-seat Italian restaurant.

Cafe El Presidente

30 W. 24th St., 646-429-8284
Tacos and aguas frescas!

Heartwood

184 Eighth Ave., 646-476-5458
When a James Beard Award-winning chef teams up with Gramercy Tavern's restaurateur, you can expect good results.

Huertas

107 First Ave., 212-228-4490
Maialino chef Jonah Miller's Spanish joint has small plates and cheap drinks.

Ramp fever ramps up

The Monarch Room's ramp pasta also incorporates other spring veggies. / PROVIDED

Yum. These spring veggies are only around for a short time.

For a very limited time — about a month — New York has ramp fever. This tasty, garlic-like onion can add a savory flavor to most dishes, but they disappear about as quickly as they arrive. Here are some of our favorites around town.

Tarallucci e Vino

Tarallucci was one of the first restaurants to feature ramps on its menu this spring. Try them grilled in an appetizer with pork belly, parsnip puree and mushrooms.
15 E. 18th St., 212-228-5400

French Louie

Order chef Ryan Angulo's side dish of grilled ramps and raclette — the seasonal onions are tossed with croutons, lemon juice, salt and Vermont raclette.
320 Atlantic Ave., 718-935-1200

Craft

Pick the ramp and ricotta agnolotti (the ricotta is made in-house) with pickled green garlic and parmesan.
43 E. 19th St., 212-780-0880

The Gander

Here, enjoy a pasta course with brown butter pansotti and Buffalo taleggio cheese, chanterelles, ramps and parmesan.
15 W. 18th St., 212-229-9500

"Since ramps are in season for such a short time, I love to use them in dishes where they can truly shine," says chef Jesse Schenker of The Gander. / THE GANDER

General Assembly

At this new Euro-inspired restaurant, order the Skuna Bay salmon with grilled ramp aioli and rhubarb chutney. Ramps go well with the salmon because they're strong enough to stand up to the fattiness of the fish.
360 Park Ave. S. at 26th Street, 212-951-7111

The Monarch Room

This American brassiere features ramps with hand-cut nettles pasta, white asparagus and morel mushrooms.
408 W. 15th St., 646-790-7070

Colicchio & Sons

Ramps are on both the Tap Room and four-course menus, in dishes like duck confit with black-eyed peas, ramps and Fresno chilies, as well as lamb loin with picked ramps and artichokes. Oysters with ramp cream sauce can be ordered as a tasty canapé.
85 10th Ave., 212-400-6699

Tertulia

Seamus Mullen's Spanish restaurant offers smoked deviled eggs with ramp pesto. The chefs are playing with ramps for other specials that change daily.
359 Sixth Ave., 646-559-9909

North End Grill

Speaking of eggs, the simplicity of North End's scrambled eggs with ramps and bacon on grilled bread makes it a must-try.
104 North End Ave., 646-747-1600

LASSE EMIL KRISTIANSEN
@ metronewyork
letters@metro.us

Plus

Party at Ramp Fest 2014

Can't get enough? There's a whole festival dedicated to the delicious spring delicacy. At Ramp Fest 2014, you can spend an entire Saturday just eating dishes with ramps, learning about ramps, and, of course, obsessing over ramps with other enthusiasts. Drinks and live music will accompany the event.
May 3, noon-4 p.m.
Basilica Hudson, 110 S. Front St., Hudson, N.Y.
518-822-1050

Make it yourself

Pickled ramps

We got chef Brandon Kida from Clement Restaurant and Bar to share his recipe for pickled ramps:

1 Ingredients:
1 bunch ramps, 3 cups water, 2 cups sugar, 1 cup rice wine vinegar, 1 tbsp black peppercorn, 5 bay leaves, 1 tbsp coriander seed, 1 tbsp fennel seed.

2 Method:
Wash ramps and remove green tops. Combine the water, sugar, vinegar, bay leaf, peppercorn, coriander seed and fennel seed. Bring to boil and remove from heat. Pour mixture over the ramp bulbs. Store in refrigerator for 48 hours.

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Contest

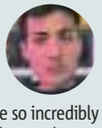
Win tickets to the Veuve Clicquot Polo Classic

Tickets are sold out for the Veuve Clicquot Polo Classic (www.vcpoloclassic.com), one of NYC's most hotly anticipated events of the summer. We're sending one lucky Metro reader and a guest to this year's fete at Liberty State Park through Club Metro (www.metro.us/newyork/clubmetro).

The weekly yelp

Pretzels are the only thing more popular in Germany than David Hasselhoff, but NYC has its own love for the twisty knots. Join us as we carbo-load.

The Redhead

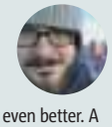


349 E. 13th St, 212-533-6212
The housemade soft pretzels are a must. These are so incredibly soft, chewy and hot, and so good you don't even need the beer cheese they are served with. **MIKE C.**

Reichenbach Hall

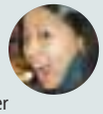
5 W. 37th St., 212-302-7744
Make sure you have at least four hungry people if you get the giant pretzel. It's served on a platter the size of a pizza. **GREG S.**

Sigmund's Pretzels



29 Ave. B., 646-410-0333
When you fancy them up with truffles, they get even better. A $7 happy hour deal makes this place hard to pass up. **JUSTIN L.**

Flatiron Hall



38 W. 26th St., 646-790-3200
The giant pretzel is a must — it's bigger than your head, super soft and doughy, and served alongside a mustard and cheesy dip.
ALICE L.

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We want you

Upload your own events!

Have an upcoming event that you want to let Metro readers know about? Send an email to events@metro.us and we'll get it on our new listings website.

FOOD & DRINK

Tasting Brooklyn

April 29, 6:30 p.m.
The Green Building
452 Union St., Gowanus
$55-$80, 718-522-3363
www.yoursocialfix.com
Celebrate Brooklyn's culinary scene with Social Fix's tasting featuring Knickerbocker, Benchmark, Dinosaur Bar-B-Que and tons of other Brooklyn staples. Sample bites and vote for your favorite to win Best Dish. DJ Nutritious will spin only the healthiest beats. A portion of proceeds will benefit Slow Food NYC, and you're probably going to get fat!

BOOKS

PEN World Voices

April 28-May 4
Various locations and ticket Prices, www.worldvoices.pen.org
Now in its second decade, the PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature engages over 100 international writers and artists from Noam Chomsky to Andrés Neuman in readings, debates and more. Founder Salman Rushdie has passed the torch of leadership to Irish novelist Colm Toibin.

MUSIC

Andrew W.K. wants to rock — on the piano. / GETTY IMAGES

Andrew W.K.'s Grand Piano Party

Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
SubCulture, 45 Bleecker St.; $25-$30, 212-533-5470
www.subculturenewyork.com
Party with Mr. Party himself at this intimate two-night performance as Andrew W.K. takes his party back to where it began — the piano. The multitalented, all-white-wearing, Grammy-winning producer began his music career at the age of 4 with classical piano lessons and has since expanded his horizons, but just a little...

ART

13 Most Wanted Men: Andy Warhol and the 1964 World's Fair

Opening Party

Saturday, 8 p.m.
Queens Museum
Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Suggested Donation: $8
718-592-9700
www.queensmuseum.org
It's been 50 years since Andy Warhol ruffled some feathers with his controversial "13 Most Wanted Men" exhibit at the World's Fair, which was painted over only days after it went up. Fortunately, he recreated his paintings, nine of which will be featured in this exhibit. Saturday night is the opening party.
JAY HONSTETTER

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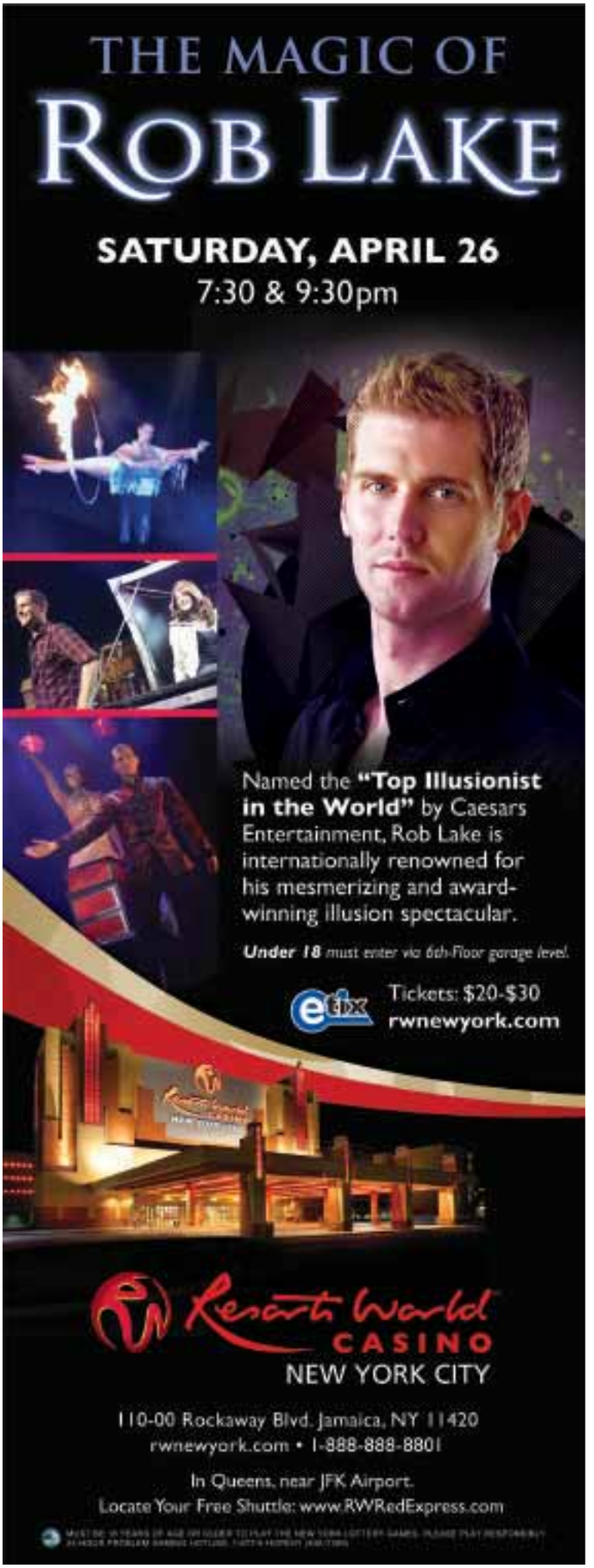
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Horoscope

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Don't get drawn into any arguments. Even though things may not work out as planned, you should accept the changes. Compromise.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. You are on an upward trend right now, so enjoy the ride. If you take advantage of your experience, nothing will hold you back.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Mull over an investment, but don't wait until it's too late to make your move. Be prepared to make the choice that is most likely to benefit both you and your family.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Your goals need adjustment. Be receptive to new ideas, and make a change if you want to feel better about your direction.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Your leadership qualities will help you gain control. You will attract individuals who want to support your plans.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. You can gain valuable insight if you include youngsters or seniors in your plans. Opt for a creative outlet that will let you use your teaching skills.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Don't get overwhelmed by your long list of chores or responsibilities. Negative thinking will only slow you down.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Ditch your regular routine in favor of something different. A day trip will spark new concerns as well as a solution.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Your curiosity and adaptability will lead to favorable changes in your life. Head in a new direction, and you will be applauded for your ideas.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. You will be respected for your opinions if you have the courage to speak out. Your clarity and vision will draw attention.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Adjust to the necessities of a demanding situation. A small respite will help recharge your batteries.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Get involved in a cause and interact with interesting people. You will fare best with a serious-minded group striving to implement positive social change. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

4				5		1		
		1	2		7		9	
	7				4		8	
	6	7	1	9				
			5	8	6			
				7	3	5	1	
	1		8				2	
	2		7		9	6		
		5		2				3

9	6			7	3		1	4
	2		8		9			
7				2				9
8		7						
	1						5	
						4		1
1				4				3
			7		5		9	
5	3		6	9			4	7

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

The writing on the wall

Re: 'Tori Spelling is milking this whole affair thing' (Metro, April 23) So in order not to be a "fame-hungry bloodsucker who will sell a devastating event from [her life] to the highest bidder," Tori Spelling should suffer in silence? Consider having no outlet to release the embarrassment and the humiliation like most of us do.
CHARLES RAMIREZ, VIA EMAIL

Tori Spelling took Dean from his wife, so what goes around comes around. It's called karma. Why did she think that with her ugly self and no talent that he wouldn't cheat on her? She deserves what she is getting.
MADELINE JONES-JENKINS, VIA EMAIL

Kids don't learn from special toys

Re: 'Parenting without stereotypes' (Metro, April 22) There's no such thing as a "gender-neutral" upbringing. Behavior is learned mostly by example. The different personalities and interests of mom and dad inevitably shape the gender-role perceptions of their children — regardless of what toys or sermons the kids are given. The best example you can set is to be comfortable with who you are and respectful of others who are different.
KIM DE RIEL, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Online

You can use your smartphone to discover today's crossword answers — right now! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle — it's that easy!

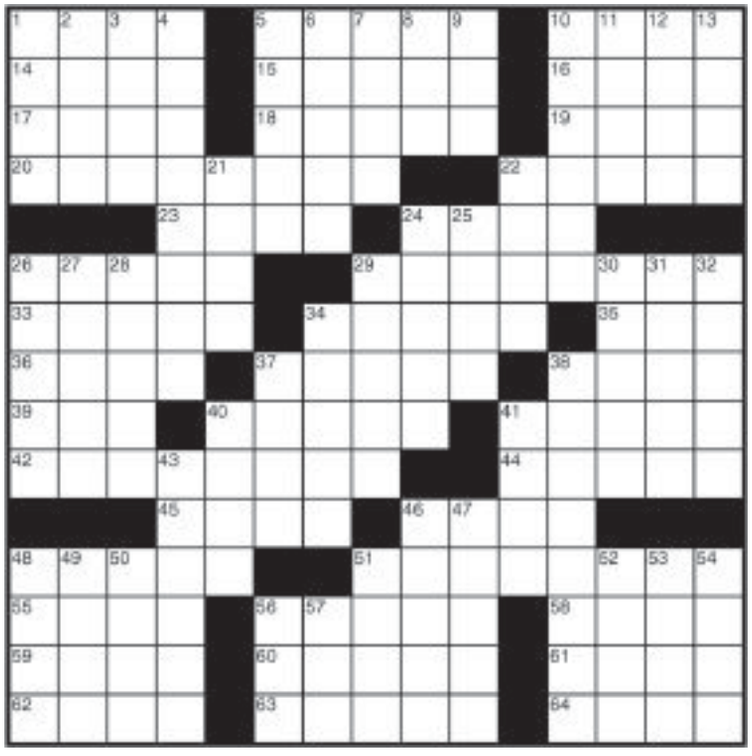
Interactive Crossword

Crossword

Across
1 — du jour
5 Narrow squeak
10 — fide
14 Insincerely nice
15 Falter
16 Beehive State
17 Percolate
18 Hazard a guess
19 Leaf veins
20 Ready for the prom
22 Fresco base
23 Heirs, often
24 Rider's command
26 More secure
29 Felt hats
33 Ill-tempered
34 Floor models
35 Subject for Keats
36 Diploma word
37 Golfer's shouts
38 Hudson Bay tribe
39 Egg — yung
40 Plains drifters
41 Shipping box
42 Not yet confirmed
44 Grinding tooth
45 Mother lodes
46 Desktop symbol
48 Take notes
51 Fetid
55 Mystique
56 Trouser feature
58 Toon light bulb
59 Monogram pt.
60 "Uncle Miltie"
61 Garden hopper
62 — -majeste
63 Hangs around
64 Annexes

Down
1 Blog entry
2 In — of
3 Mr. Trebek
4 Prepares for printing
5 Faint
6 Billowing garments
7 Like some fans
8 Stimpy's buddy
9 Previous to
10 Chiffonier
11 Redding or Skinner
12 Grabs
13 Mr. Moto's reply (2 wds.)
21 Fishing boat
22 Sailors
24 "Little —"
25 RN employers
26 Incredible muddle
27 Slugger Hank —
28 35mm setting (hyph.)
29 Crane cousin
30 Rustic
31 "Ninotchka" name
32 Dirty look
34 Rx amounts
37 Playing card
38 Anchor of yore
40 Cause to yawn
41 Slangy summons
43 Take turns
46 Fellini's land
47 "Let's go!"
48 Lament loudly
49 Viking letter
50 Late spring flower
51 Vaccines
52 Elvis, to some
53 Patricia of "Cookie's Fortune"
54 Flits about
56 "Nature" channel
57 Granted approval

Yesterday's answer



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2014 Giants schedule

- **Week 1: at Lions** Monday, Sept. 8, 7:10 p.m., ESPN
- **Week 2: Cardinals** Sunday, Sept. 14, 1 p.m., FOX
- **Week 3: Texans** Sunday, Sept. 21, 1 p.m., CBS

DESEAN JACKSON

- **Week 4: at Redskins** Thursday, Sept. 25, 8:25 p.m., CBS/NFLN
- **Week 5: Falcons** Sunday, Oct. 5, 1 p.m., FOX
- **Week 6: at Eagles** Sunday, Oct. 12, 8:30 p.m., NBC
- **Week 7: at Cowboys** Sunday, Oct. 19, 4:25 p.m., FOX
- **Week 8: Bye**

HAKEEM NICKS

- **Week 9: Colts** Monday, Nov. 3, 8:30 p.m., ESPN
- **Week 10: at Seahawks** Sunday, Nov. 9, 4:25 p.m., FOX
- **Week 11: 49ers** Sunday, Nov. 16, 1 p.m., FOX
- **Week 12: Cowboys** Sunday, Nov. 23, 8:30 p.m., NBC
- **Week 13: at Jaguars** Sunday, Nov. 30, 1 p.m., FOX
- **Week 14: at Titans** Sunday, Dec. 5, 1 p.m., FOX
- **Week 15: Redskins** Sunday, Dec. 14, 1 p.m., FOX
- **Week 16: at Rams** Sunday, Dec. 21, 4:05 p.m., FOX
- **Week 17: Eagles** Sunday, Dec. 28, 1:05 p.m., FOX

Will it be Geno Smith lining up under center for the Jets come Week 1 against the Raiders, or will Michael Vick take over for the second-year QB? / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

NFL releases schedule for 2014 season

NFL. The Giants and Jets now know their routes if they are to make the playoffs.

Start planning, the NFL released the official schedules for all 32 teams on Wednesday.

And while we already knew the teams they would be facing, now we also know when, in what order and whether they will be in prime time.

The Giants will play five prime-time games — against the Lions, Redskins, Eagles, Colts and Cowboys — as well as two FOX national games in Week 7 at Dallas and Week 10 at Seattle.

The Jets will play three prime-time games — against the Bears, Patriots and Dolphins — as well as a CBS national game in Week 2 at Green Bay.

MARK OSBORNE
@MetroNYSports
mark.osborne@metro.us

Quoted

"I was definitely looking at that Green Bay [game] and I was happy to see that we are playing them in Week 2, instead of having to play them in the elements in late December."

Rex Ryan, Jets head coach, on avoiding the "frozen tundra"

Marquee national games

We look at four national games you'll remember:

- **Buccaneers at Bears** Sunday, Nov. 23, 1 p.m., FOX — Chicago went with Jay Cutler, leaving Josh McCown to sign with the Bucs.
- **Patriots at Packers** Sunday, Nov. 30, 4:25 p.m., CBS — Two of the best quarterbacks in the game, Tom Brady and Aaron Rodgers, go head-to-head for the first time.
- **Broncos at Patriots** Sunday, Nov. 2, 4:25 p.m., CBS — There aren't many meetings between Peyton Manning and Brady left.
- **Packers at Seahawks** Thursday, Sept. 4, 7:30 p.m., NBC — The last time they met we got the infamous "Fail Mary."

RODGERS HAS NEVER STARTED A GAME AGAINST TOM BRADY AND THE PATRIOTS.
GETTY IMAGES

2014 Jets schedule

- **Week 1: Raiders** Sunday, Sept. 7, 1 p.m., CBS
- **Week 2: at Packers** Sunday, Sept. 14, 4:25 p.m., CBS
- **Week 3: Bears** Monday, Sept. 22, 8:30 p.m., ESPN
- **Week 4: Lions** Sunday, Sept. 28, 1 p.m., FOX
- **Week 5: at Chargers** Sunday, Oct. 5, 4:25 p.m., CBS
- **Week 6: Broncos** Sunday, Oct. 12, 1 p.m., CBS

TOM BRADY

- **Week 7: at Patriots** Thursday, Oct. 16, 8:25 p.m., CBS/NFLN
- **Week 8: Bills** Sunday, Oct. 26, 1 p.m., CBS
- **Week 9: at Chiefs** Sunday, Nov. 2, 1 p.m., CBS
- **Week 10: Steelers** Sunday, Nov. 9, 1 p.m., CBS
- **Week 11: Bye**
- **Week 12: at Bills** Sunday, Nov. 23, 1 p.m., CBS
- **Week 13: Dolphins** Monday, Dec. 1, 8:30 p.m., ESPN
- **Week 14: at Vikings** Sunday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m., CBS

CHRIS JOHNSON

- **Week 15: at Titans** Sunday, Dec. 14, 4:05 p.m., CBS
- **Week 16: Patriots** Sunday, Dec. 21, 1 p.m., CBS
- **Week 17: at Dolphins** Sunday, Dec. 28, 1 p.m., CBS

3 SPORTS

Give him the boot

Pineda thrown out for pine tar

So much for the "mud" on Michael Pineda's hand being a thing of the past. Two starts after the Red Sox broadcast wondered about a mysterious substance on Pineda's hand — one he said was just "mud" — the umpires ejected the Yankees starter for having pine tar on his neck in Wednesday night's game. Red Sox manager John Farrell asked the ums about the substance during the second inning. Home plate umpire Gerry Davis inspected Pineda and ejected him.

Watch online

Find video and recap of last night's Red Sox-Yankees and Mets-Cardinals games at: **Metro.us/sports.**

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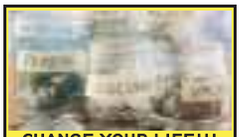

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Notice of Formation of Born Gifted Music Group LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/31/14. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to LLC c/o 7014 13th Ave. Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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